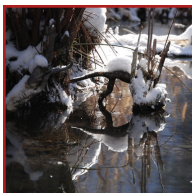
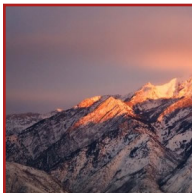


The Human Touch

Utah Department of
Human Services
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And More!

Director's Message

This month at the Department we are finishing up the legislative session and working to support our funding and compensation requests. I have heard from some of you about your key issues and I appreciate the feedback. Revenue estimates are down, as I'm sure you have heard, but we will stay the course. Many legislators have told me that they have a good opinion of DHS, based on the professionalism and fiscal accountability we have established. Thanks for all your hard work!

Along those lines, I would like to compliment the budget and fiscal staff around DHS. They are sometimes the unsung heroes of our operation. While others may be out there saving people's lives or putting families back together, the budget and fiscal experts are behind the scenes giving everyone the resources to make it work. I have come to depend on them in a variety of ways. We could not achieve the good work of our Department without them.

When we get requests from legislators about how much a particular program costs or how many people are served, I can count on our staff to have the answer promptly. That makes all of our jobs easier. When there is a question about the efficiency of an operation, it is nice to be able to ask for



Lisa-Michele Church
Executive Director

the hard analysis and get solid answers. I know each of the divisions and offices have people that keep the wheels on. It is pressure-filled job because errors can be so damaging. But in general we have some great financial staff. I appreciate them and their dedication.

With the release of the Legislative Auditor General's audit report on the State Hospital, I want to tell the hospital staff "thank you" for the professional way you worked with the auditor staff. The audit found that the quality at the State Hospital is as good as, or in some cases significantly better, than the quality at other state hospitals. The work being done there is something we can all be proud of - thanks! Kudos to Dallas Earnshaw and his top-notch team!

Governor's Award for Excellence 2008

Every day, state employees – ordinary people, come to work and produce amazing results through their dedication and commitment to the citizens of Utah.

The Governor's Award for Excellence is a wonderful way to recognize an individual who embodies the essence of excellence in all that they do. Awards will be given to individuals or teams who have demonstrated a commitment to excellence in the following categories:

- Heroism
- Humanitarianism
- Innovation and Efficiency
- Integrity
- Leadership
- Outstanding Public Service

Nominations for the Governor's Award for Excellence are currently being accepted. Nominations

**Thank you for
all that you do!
Thanks, in ad-
vance, for taking
the time to nomi-
nate someone for
their commitment
to excellence!**



must be submitted to Rosanne Ricks, Office of Human Resources, rricks@utah.gov by Monday, March 31, 2008.

Specific nomination and category criteria can be found on the DHRM website at

<http://www.dhrm.utah.gov/> under Excellence Awards. If you have questions about the new awards program that can not be answered with the information on the website, contact Rosanne Ricks, 801-538-4220 or rricks@utah.gov



The Human Touch

American Heart Month: Be Heart Smart

Did you know that February is American Heart Month, and not because of Valentine's Day? Heart disease is the number one killer of both men and women in the United States. So this month is a great time to reduce your risk of heart disease by starting heart-healthy habits and learning about the risk factors for heart disease. These risk factors include smoking, being overweight, lack of exercise, diabetes, high blood pressure and cholesterol, family history and age.



Here are a few things you can do to help your heart:

- Limit your intake of fat
- Choose heart-healthy (mono- and polyunsaturated) fats over saturated fats and trans fats
- Limit your intake of sugars
- Limit your intake of sodium/salt
- Choose more whole grains, legumes, fresh produce and low fat dairy products
- Choose lean meat and poultry
- Include fish in your diet
- Exercise portion control
- Become physically active for 30 to 60 minutes a day
- Stop smoking
- Limit your intake of alcohol

Take advantage of regular screenings and consult your doctor about how to reduce your personal risk for heart disease. As you observe American Heart Month, begin by protecting your own heart, and spread the word to others.

For more information on how to be heart smart, visit www.americanheart.org



The Human Touch

Keep Your Money! You've Earned It!

Submitted By Lindsay Harris, Office of Fiscal Operations

The Earn It. Keep It. Save It. (EIKISI) Committee is a public-private partnership working to strengthen family financial stability by utilizing the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), free tax preparation services such as Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), the Beehive and asset formation programs.

The EITC is a refundable federal tax credit that can increase the effective wage of qualifying workers by up to \$2/hr, bringing many families up out of poverty. Up to 40,000 Utah households fail to file for the EITC because they are unaware of the EITC, aren't required to file taxes because of their low earnings, or face education or language barriers. It's estimated that eligible Utahns leave between \$60-80 million annually in unclaimed federal EITC money. Claiming this money could help provide financial stability and a better quality of life for many Utah families.

The VITA program provides free tax preparation services to low-to-moderate income households. In 2007, more than 500 volunteers completed more than 12,000 free returns to help Utahns claim more than \$8.6 million in EITC and other tax credits. New partners include H&R Block and the Beehive, who collectively provided free tax preparation services for more than 60 low-to-moderate income households, assisting them to claim over \$25,000 in additional EITC and other tax credits.

Asset formation programs such as Utah Saves and Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) are offered in partnership with the EITC and free tax preparation sites. These programs provide financial education, support, and incentives to help Utahns improve their financial knowledge and create long-term assets to enhance their economic stability and well-being. Utah Saves helps Utahns gain information and support needed to reduce debt and increase their savings. IDAs offer low-income Utahns matched savings to help acquire a home, start a small business or finance higher education.

These tools and assets can be a great help to many of our employees as well as many of the individuals and families our employees serve. We encourage you to find out more about EITC, VITA, and the benefits of Utah Saves by dialing **2-1-1**, and then spread the word to all others who would be of benefit.

Volunteers Needed

Join America's number one anti-poverty campaign. Help to distribute the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) by preparing and electronically sending tax returns!

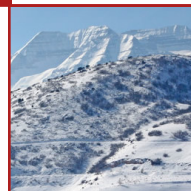
Free training in simple tax law, with an emphasis on the credits available for low-to-moderate income households, is available. With a choice of on-line, self-study, and hands-on training sponsored by the Internal Revenue Service.

Volunteer a minimum of 3 hours a week from January to April 15, 2008.

Help low-to-moderate income households keep more of what they earn, ensure the distribution of EITC and bring millions of dollars into our local economy!

Other volunteer opportunities are available such as an Interpreter, Financial Resource Specialist, Electronic Return Transmitter, Site Coordinator or Greeter.

To volunteer register online at utahtaxvolunteer.org or call 2-1-1



The Spirit of the Law: In the Indian Way

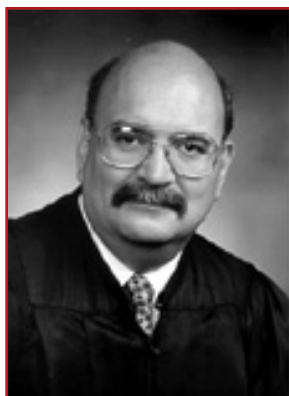
Submitted By Marty Shannon, Division of Child and Family Services

The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) is more than just a federal law. It is a practice that inspires us to work in a manner that is sensitive to cultural differences among people.

The Honorable Judge William Thorne will be presenting on the Indian Child Welfare Act at the Utah Adoption Conference on April 10th. Judge Thorne will provide, in the story tradition of Native American people, the history and cultural values behind ICWA. Participants will benefit from the rich experience they gain from a deeper understanding of the positive impact cultural

pride can have on children and families. "I have had the privilege to attend this workshop," says Adoption Program Manager Marty Shannon, "and walked away with a deeper knowledge of how culture impacts a person's identity and sense of self worth. I hope administrators and supervisors will encourage staff to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity."

For additional information about this and other workshops at the Annual Utah Adoption Conference contact The Adoption Exchange, 801-265-0444.



Judge William Thorne is a Pomo/Coast Miwok Indian who has served as a part-time tribal court judge in 11 states for over 25 years, a full-time state trial judge for 14 years and was appointed to Utah Court of Appeals in 2000. He served as president of the National Indian Justice Center for 20 years and is currently its vice president.

Presidential Trivia

- The first president and first lady to move into the White House were John and Abigail Adams. They moved into the White House in November 1800 and lived there a short time. Thomas Jefferson then became president and moved into the White House in March 1801.
- President Thomas Jefferson placed his office in the room known today as the State Dining Room. Jefferson used the Green Room for a dining area.
- First Lady Abigail Fillmore began a collection of books in 1850 for a White House library. Today the White House Library is located in the downstairs corridor.
- President Grover Cleveland married Frances Folsom in the Blue Room on June 2, 1886. President Cleveland was the first and only president to get married in the White House.
- President Theodore Roosevelt arranged for stuffed moose and elk heads to be placed on the walls of the State Dining Room as part of the 1902 restoration.
- Shortly after her husband's first inauguration, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt held the first of many press conferences with women reporters in the Red Room in the White House. Eleanor Roosevelt's press conferences opened the doors for women reporters to cover the activities of the White House.
- The Blue Room and Diplomatic Reception Room are shaped like ovals. The Oval Office in the West Wing is also in the shape of an oval.

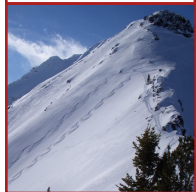
For more presidential trivia, visit

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/history/presidents/>

**Be courteous to all, but intimate with few,
and let those few be well tried before you
give them your confidence.**

— George Washington





Years of Service Recognized

Looking for a great place to build your retirement? Check out the people who have been building their retirement with the State of Utah over the past 20-30 years.

30 Years of Service

Division of Child and Family Services

Danny Richard Wheatley, Licensed Clinical Therapist

Utah State Developmental Center

Phyliss McDaniel, Seamstress/Mall Clerk

Gayla Moore, Custodial Supervisor

25 Years of Service

Division of Aging and Adult Services

Randy Moon, Research Consultant I

Utah State Hospital

Joy Diamond, Liability Prevention Specialist

20 Years of Service

Division of Aging and Adult Services

Debbie Koew, Auditor II

Division of Child and Family Services

Suzanne Mumford Callister, Social Service Worker

Patricia Sperry Jensen, Contract/Grant Analyst

Division of Juvenile Justice Services

Dave Kuresa, Supervisor

Utah State Developmental Center

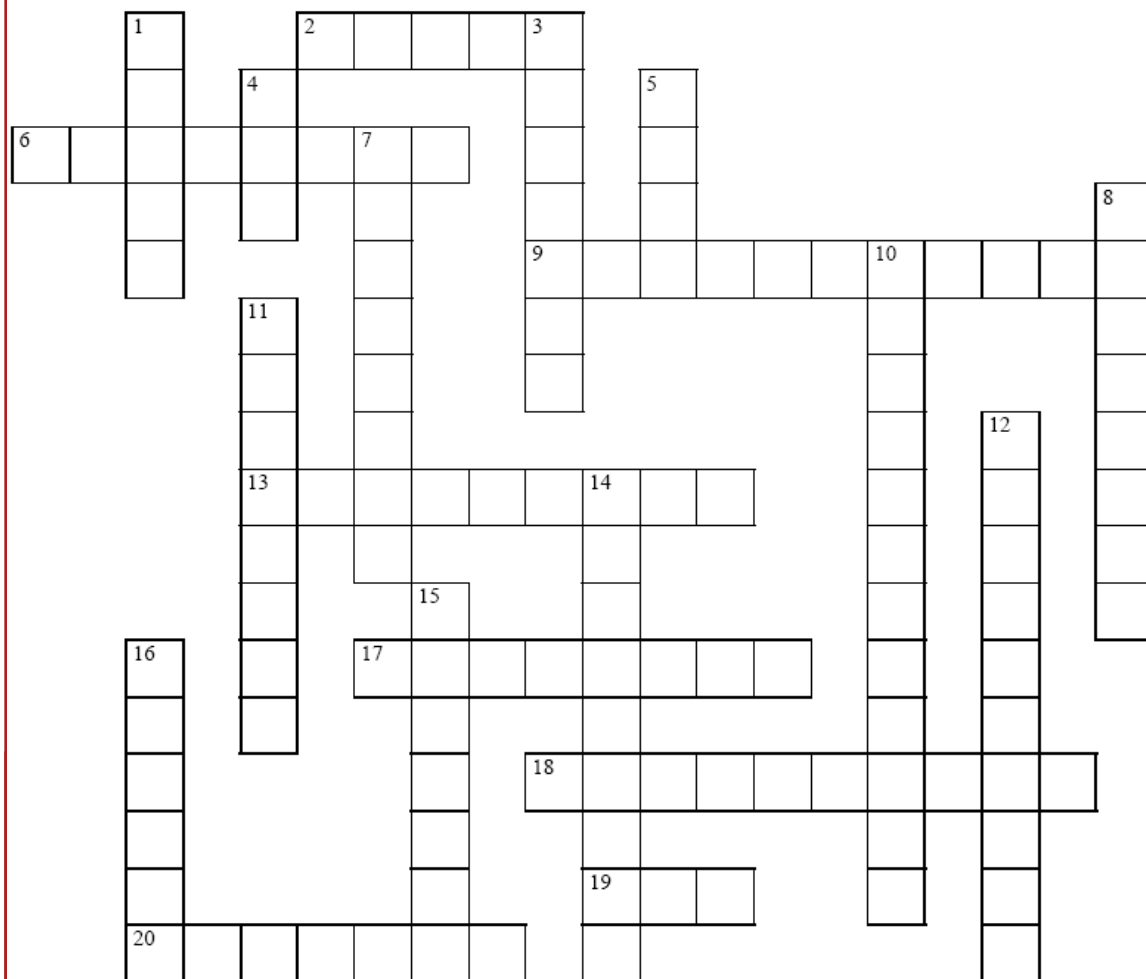
Lynette Bennion, Psychiatric/Developmental Technician

Christine Livingston, Licensed Practical Nurse

Utah State Hospital

Barbra Kessinger, Registered Nurse II

Abraham Lincoln Facts



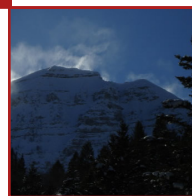
ACROSS

- 2 Years in Illinois Legislature
- 6 Parent's Place of Birth
- 9 Place of Death
- 13 Number of Stars on Flag when he left Office
- 17 Wife
- 18 Party Affiliation
- 19 Number of Terms
- 20 Hobby

DOWN

- 1 Month of Death
- 3 Date of Birth
- 4 Feet Tall
- 5 Number of Children
- 7 Burial State
- 8 Birthplace
- 10 Proclamation issued on January 1, 1863
- 11 Age at Inauguration
- 12 Favorite Food
- 14 President
- 15 Military Rank

To check your answers, visit <http://hsemployees.utah.gov/200802answers.html>



Training Tidbits

Proper training is essential to best serving our consumers. Below are just a few of the upcoming training opportunities supported by the department:

Generations 2008 Conference

Behavioral/Mental Health & Substance Abuse in Public and Private Practices

March 6-7, 2008

Hilton Salt Lake City Center

Salt Lake City, Utah

For additional/registration information contact ESI Management Group at (801)501-9446 or toll-free (877)501-9446.

Disability Studies Forum: How We Look – New and Old Ways of Seeing Disability

March 11, 2008

University of Utah, Eccles Health Sciences Education Building, 3515B

Salt Lake City, Utah

Free. Seating is limited – registration is not required.

Utah Transition Conference

April 3-4, 2008

Provo Marriott

Provo, Utah

For additional/registration information contact Susan Loving, 801-538-7645,

susan.loving@schools.utah.gov or visit their website, <http://www.updc.org>

HELP WANTED

Are you aware of a training or conference that we don't have listed in the Human Touch or online?

If so, please notify Elizabeth Sollis, esollis@utah.gov, 801-538-4275.

You may also submit events online on the department training calendars, www.hstraining.utah.gov.



**Develop a passion for learning.
If you do, you will never cease to grow.**

- Anthony J. D'Angelo

Annual Adoption Conference

April 10-11, 2008

South Towne Expo Center

Sandy, Utah

For additional/registration information go to www.utdcfsadopt.org or call 801-265-0444 or email ks@aoptex.org

21st Annual Crime Victims' Conference

"The Will to Survive. The Courage to Move Forward."

April 24-25, 2008

Salt Lake Community College – Miller Campus

Sandy, Utah

For additional/registration information contact Jennifer Menteer, 801-238-2360, 1-800-621-7444, jmenteer@utah.gov or visit their website, www.crimevictim.utah.gov

Utah Correctional Association's Annual Spring Conference

April 27-30, 2008

Holiday Inn Conference Center, St. George, Utah

For additional/registration information contact Holly Jenkins, 801-627-0322 ext 208, hjenkins@utah.gov

No Town Is Too Far Away.



From Logan to St. George, if a child
needs help, Delton is there.



As a Child and Family Services foster care worker, Delton drives about 3,800 miles every month to meet with children and families. "No foster family is too far away for me to visit," says Delton.

Delton surrounds the child and family with a team of community partners and services to help them back on the highway to success.

Thanks Delton!

